

Access

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Trustee Education Discussed at the Library of Michigan

By Carey L. Draeger,
Public Information Officer
And
Martha McKee

What kind of continuing education do library trustees want? On December 5, 2000, at the Library of Michigan, State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau convened the first meeting of the Library of Michigan Trustee Advisory Committee. She met with fourteen library trustees from around the state to develop a new statewide plan for trustee training. "There is no more important role for the Library of Michigan than to help develop the skills of our trustees. Libraries need knowledgeable trustees who will help them improve their libraries," Brandau said.

Among the fourteen trustees was Library of Michigan trustee Bettina Graber of Munising. "I was pleased when Christie invited me to contribute to this session," she said. "I think this is the right direction for the state library. Trustees bring valuable skills to a library, but to carry out their responsibilities as public servants, they need help learning the basics of the library profession."

Karen S. Dubow, Ph.D., of Marquette, led the group in a three-part exercise designed to create a training plan. "This group represents more than 100 years of trustee volunteerism. We want to use their knowledge and experience to create a systematic continuing education program for all of Michigan's trustees," Dubow said.

Three tasks were asked of the participants: to set criteria for an ideal program, identify a list of needed subject areas for trustee education and suggest ways to recognize trustee accomplishments.

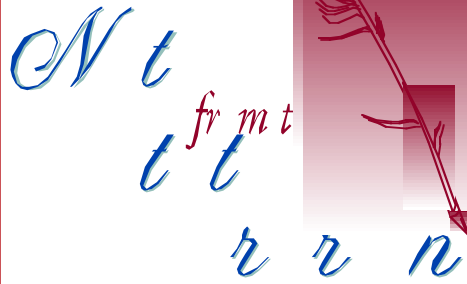
The trustees were first asked to identify the pluses and minuses of trustee training they had experienced in the past. Some of the positives included gaining information from experts, the ability to discuss issues with other trustees, lots of detailed information and effective hand-outs. Negative aspects noted were that some training sessions were disorganized or boring and the facilitator was either weak or deviated from the stated topic.

Trustees were then instructed to identify the criteria or indicators for an ideal training program. The answers ranged from knowing the agenda ahead of time to a comfortable room to a program that is approximately 3-4 hours in length. Easy-to-reach locations and reasonable prices were also mentioned.

Finally, the participants were encouraged to identify subject areas that needed to be covered.



The LM Trustee Advisory Council Meeting at the Library of Michigan in December 2000.



By Christie Pearson Brandau

Imagine that you are a resident of Michigan in need of information. You go to the computer and access a library portal called the Michigan Electronic Library. When you get to the Michigan Electronic Library, there are four options from which you may choose:

- Selected Websites (formerly Mel.org),
- AccessMichigan Journals and Articles,
- Electronic Books (via netlibrary)
- Virtual Catalog of Resources in Michigan libraries (including digitized visuals)

You click on Virtual Catalog, which allows you to search a vast database of everything contained in the libraries in the state. Voila! You find the book you want. You click on the icon that says "get me that." You choose to either have the book delivered to your home within a week or you pick it up at your local library within 48 hours. If the information requested is a non-returnable, it could arrive at your desktop computer within the day.

For all you know, you, as the patron, have accessed a virtual catalog of millions of items held by a mega-library called the Michigan Electronic Library with hundreds of branch libraries in schools, cities, colleges, universities and businesses around the state! As the patron you don't need to know what has transpired to make your request possible or that the Michigan Electronic Library Virtual Catalog is actually libraries of all types in the state linked seamlessly through the Internet. All you need to know is that a wonderful, huge library is available by accessing the Michigan Electronic Library and that it has met your need!

Is this just a pipe dream? The imaginings of a delusional state librarian? No, this could become a reality for Michigan. That is what the Library of Michigan and ATLAS, the Preferred Futures Action team, are imagining as the near future for us.

How do we accomplish this? We've already begun the process by sharing a vision of a web-based, totally integrated resource-sharing-and-delivery system and a vision of excellent access to library resources for

every resident of Michigan. The technology to accomplish this is readily available. We have taken steps to harness the technology and attach it to our model: the Library of Michigan recently hired consultant Patrick McClintock of RMG Consulting, Inc. to assist us in identifying the resource-sharing models and systems already in place across Michigan and in helping us determine the model that will be best for us. But the real key to making this vision a reality is not just in building a wonderful model of resource sharing; it is the readiness and willingness of each library in the state to participate in a new and collaborative environment. By working together as a team we can combine our strengths to provide a new model of excellent library services for our patrons.

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The "top fourteen" topics were: finance/budget, roles and responsibilities, human resources management, Michigan law, the relationship of the board and the director, strategic planning, policies, beginning orientation at the local level, board development, technology, public relations, evaluation, advocacy, and intellectual freedom.

The Trustee Advisory Council meeting included Brandau; Graber; Bob Lepsig, Monroe County Library; Shirley Bruursema, Kent District Library; Jack Winegarden, Genesee District Library; Donald Green, Clinton-Macomb District Library; Patricia Ann Krueger, Rauchholz Memorial Library (Hemlock); Jean Fought, Petoskey Public Library; Susie Schwedler, Crystal Falls Library; and Lynne Bondy, Howell Carnegie District Library.

Observing the group were Deputy State Librarian Jo Budler and Multitype Specialist Bryon Sitler of the Library of Michigan, and cooperative directors Suzanne Dees, Superiorland Library Cooperative; A. Michael Deller, The Library Network; Ann Holt, Capital Library Cooperative; Christine Johnson, Northland Library Cooperative; Roger Mendel, Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative; Jim Seidl, Woodlands Library Cooperative; Dan Siebersma, Lakeland Library Cooperative; Dave Simmons, White Pine Library Cooperative; and Tammy Turgeon, Suburban Library Cooperative. Organizational leaders Stephen Kershner from the Michigan Library Association and Randy Dykhuis from the Michigan Library Consortium also attended. The visitors were invited to listen to the discussion.

"Keeping quiet during the discussion wasn't easy for us," said Roger Mendel, director of the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, "but it was important for us to listen to what trustees believed was important. They have a different perspective that needs to be heard and acted upon."

Martha's Room:

Honoring a Life of Service and Commitment

By Sarah D. Watkins,

Executive Director

Library of Michigan Foundation

The Library of Michigan is a monument to Michigan's commitment to libraries. However, within this beautiful ten-year old facility there remains one room that is incomplete. This room was selected to create a special place to hold, maintain and showcase Michigan's rare and special books, maps and historical documents. It will salute and honor Michigan's rare and special first woman lieutenant governor, Martha Wright Griffiths.

Griffiths fought for and won important victories for equal rights for women and minorities. During her illustrious and courageous career, Martha Griffiths was a fighter, a persevering and relentless advocate for equal rights. She worked for changes in Social Security and pension fund benefits to help widows. She worked for education and people with disabilities. She was a Michigan legislator, a Congresswoman, a judge, a practicing attorney, and Michigan's first woman lieutenant governor.

The Michigan Rare Book Room will honor Griffiths and recognize her significant service to humankind, her distinguished political career, and her life-long commitment to education. Martha's Room must be completed. The cost of the project is \$1,500,000. To date we have raised \$800,000 in support of this important project to commemorate the work of this great woman. We need your assistance.

Martha Griffiths symbolizes the spirit of persistence and resolve that we call upon you to demonstrate through your support to complete Martha's Room. If you would like to make a gift toward completion of the Michigan Rare Book Room, please send your check, payable to the Library of Michigan Foundation, to the address below or contact the Foundation's Executive Director, Sarah Watkins, at (517) 373-4470 for additional information on giving opportunities:

Library of Michigan Foundation

717 W. Allegan Street

P. O. Box 30159

Lansing, MI 48909

We need your help in making Martha's Room a reality.



Martha W. Griffiths Facts

First woman elected Lieutenant Governor of Michigan (2 terms)

Only woman to serve in the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative Branches of government

First woman elected as Recorder's Court Judge

First female Representative member of Ways and Means Committee

First female Representative member, Joint Economic Committee of Congress

Congressional Accomplishments:

Martha Griffiths had enormous impact on enhancing social and economic justice for all citizens. Her name is synonymous with the Equal Rights Amendment, which she sponsored and successfully guided through Congress. She made the argument that added "sex" to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sex. The Civil Rights Act assures women in the work force equal pay, equal employment opportunity, and the chance for a better life.

The Need for The Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room

Michigan materials of a rare, unusual, or unique character are currently held in the Library of Michigan Collection. These items require appropriate conservation and preservation.

Many items that should be stored in a special facility (rare book room) are on open stacks.

Although space has been identified in the Library of Michigan, no suitable facility exists to provide controlled access and proper protection for rare and valuable items.

Without a proper facility to maintain (preserve and conserve) special and rare materials the collection cannot grow.

Ease of access for patrons is imperative.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is seeking funding to provide a Michigan Rare Book Room in honor of Martha W. Griffiths to honor and celebrate her distinguished career and life-long commitment to libraries.

Ann Arbor District Library Computer Lab Targets Senior Home Residents

By Tim Grimes,
Associate Director
Community Relations, Ann Arbor District Library

Ann Arbor District Library Board President Carol Hollenshead and Library Director Mary Anne Hodel cut the ribbon that officially opened the new Northeast Branch Computer Lab on Wednesday, November 15. Over 40 attendees gathered that evening to hear keynote speaker WJR Internet Advisor Gary Baker and to explore the Internet. Among these were several residents of a local Ann Arbor senior home who had been receiving free Internet classes through a pilot program made possible by the Ann Arbor District Library and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Locally, the lab has scored a big hit with residents of the nearby Parkway Meadows housing complex. As a pilot project, library staff introduced 38 residents to the lab through three sessions. Through a discussion led by Library Outreach Coordinator Rachel Yanikoglu, Associate Director Eli Neiburger, and Librarian Debbie Gallagher, residents learned what to expect from the lab. Residents were also polled to determine how the lab might best serve them. From this session, staff learned that:

- classes rather than computer-led tutorials were preferred;
- early afternoon classes were best; and
- email was a desirable skill to be learned.

The second session, held a week later at the lab, provided hands-on activities. The lab was filled to capacity with a Parkway Meadows audience that was largely Chinese. Attendees were especially delighted to learn that they could access Beijing newspapers online.

The final session covered point-and-click mouse skills. Class content was based on the previous polling of residents. Attendees also were introduced to several specialized websites that library staff determined would be of interest.

Although new to the branch, the lab has quickly become a success with the senior residents. One woman eagerly informed library staff that she was forming a computer club with her friends. They planned to meet once a week at the shopping mall to have lunch, shop and then go to the Northeast Branch for an hour to "surf the 'net.'"

The new computer lab is part of a national project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to assist public libraries in bringing computer access to underserved residents who may not own their own computer. The Northeast Branch lab is unique to this project because it uses client technology for its 14 computers. Each computer workstation, which offers access to the Internet as well as word processing and business software capabilities, shares two servers rather than having individual processing units, thus saving costs and space. Additional funds from the Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library were used to purchase the furniture for the lab.



*New Legislative Council
Administer John G.
Strand and State
Librarian Christie
Pearson Brandau.*

New Legislative Council Administrator

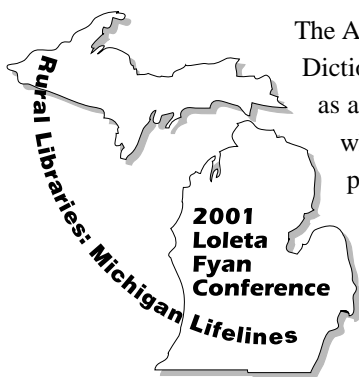
By Carey L. Draeger

John G. Strand, former chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), was recently appointed the new administrator of the Legislative Council. Strand's position was created by 1995 PA 189. He supervises the Legislative Council offices, the Legislative Service Bureau, the Legislative Council Facilities Agency, the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman, the Michigan Law Revision Commission, the Michigan Commission on Uniform State Laws, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, and the Sentencing Commission--and acts as secretary to the Legislative Council. In addition, the Council Administrator is a member of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees and Library of Michigan Foundation Board of Directors, and works with the State Librarian to coordinate the activities of the Library of Michigan with the Legislative Council. Strand began his new duties on January 8, 2001.

Prior to his appointment to the MPSC, Strand served as a judge for the Michigan Tax Tribunal from January to October 1993. Strand also served six terms as a state legislator from 1981 to 1993. Before his legislative duties, Strand was the Lapeer County prosecuting attorney.

Strand holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in economics and political science in 1973 and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1976. Strand, his wife Cathy, and sons Michael and Matthew, live in East Lansing. His mother, who lives in Ohio, is a retired librarian.

"Michigan Lifelines" Focus of 2001 Rural Libraries Conference



The American Heritage Dictionary defines a lifeline as a "means or route by which necessary supplies are transported."

Many Michigani-ans who require specific information think of their local libraries as lifelines.

With this theme in

mind, the 2001 Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference will be dedicated to exploring libraries as Michigan lifelines. This year's conference will be held April 2-4 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) at Shanty Creek, Bellaire. Registration fees are \$90 for the full conference, or \$45 for one day. The fees include all meals. This year's conference features six topical tracks: 1) Michigan, 2) Children/ Young Adults, 3) Technology, 4) Library Services, 5) Personnel/Administration, and 6) Collection Development. A wonderful vendor exhibit area will be available for participants to visit. The trustee session will be held on Tuesday.

Shanty Creek hotel fees are \$65 for a single, \$84 for a double, and \$134 for a 3-bedroom suite. For more details or to find a registration form, visit the Library's website at <http://libraryofmichigan.org>.

Brave New World: Ebooks Join Library of Michigan Collections

by Pennie Howard,
Librarian
Public Services

In December 2000 the Library of Michigan offered a new, exciting choice to its patrons. Ebook reading devices loaded with many popular titles are now available as part of the Library's commitment to bring technology and information in all forms to its customers.

What is an ebook? What is a reading device? The "e" in ebook stands for "electronic." An ebook is a book that has been stored as an electronic computer file. Just as email consists of electronic messages that travel without the envelope and stamp, ebooks are books that lack paper and binding.

Ebooks are often read on a computer screen. But what if you want to read while enjoying the sun on your Florida vacation? This is where an ebook reading device comes in handy. The ebook reading device allows the owner to download ebooks onto a compact, hand-held, battery-operated reader that weighs about the same as two paperback novels.

The Library of Michigan ebook reading devices feature novels by popular Michigan authors, management, computer science, and general titles. To see the current ebooks the Library of Michigan offers, check our online catalog ANSWER at <http://libraryofmichigan.org>. A subject search with "ebook" will bring up a listing of our ebook reading devices and ebook titles.

Is this the end of the traditional print book at the Library of Michigan? Absolutely not. The majority of books available today are still the printed and bound type we're most familiar with. The Library of Michigan will continue to focus on acquiring new print materials. However, just as we offer audio books, the Library will offer ebooks as an option.

State Website Calendar

Library and cooperative directors, library public relations and information officers, don't forget the statewide library calendar at: <http://libraryofmichigan.org/welcome/calendar.html>

Use this site to list your board meetings, workshops, closing dates, and any other date you want posted. This calendar will help us all plan ahead and avoid conflicts. Add Cindy Krueger at ckrueger@libraryofmichigan.org to your group email list for meetings and workshops to take advantage of this free service.



Libraries in the Year 2001 and Beyond

By Jo Budler,
Deputy State Librarian

In 1964 I was one of 51 million people who visited the World's Fair in New York City. The most fascinating exhibits featured the future as it would look in the year 2000. Computer-guided cars drove themselves: Dad set the destination, sat back and relaxed while the family turned their chairs to face the table set up in the center of the car and played cards while the car carried them along. Kitchens of the future featured robots that both cooked and served meals. In cities helicopters took the place of cabs. Life was good in the 1960s, but we saw how much better it was going to be in the future with all those wonderful conveniences!

Fast forward to 2001. While none of the above predictions materialized, we do live with many changes in our lives. Interstates span the entire United States from coast to coast. Although cars still don't drive themselves, most come with cruise control, many with televisions in entertainment panels, jacks for stereo headsets, and all with safety features we never dreamed of in 1964 (the only seat belts we used then were in airplanes).

We've seen a fair number of changes in our libraries, too. While traditional services remain, we have added many new services. Paper books have companion audiobooks. Ebooks are used on the Internet and on handheld reading devices. Information can be found in reference tools on the shelves and on the Internet. Today patrons use electronic databases as easily as they use books. Videos, compact discs, and DVDs share space with printed material.

What will happen to libraries of the future? I predict libraries that never close. Reference service will be available around the clock, every day. Patrons will be able to search their library's local online catalog, request a title, and have it delivered directly to them at home or at work. Distinctions between types of libraries will no longer exist because the collections of all will be joined into a collection for all. Not only will patrons continue to use libraries to access the Internet, but they will also be directed from the Internet to their local libraries' resources. Our traditional services will not vanish but will be enhanced by the opportunities of the future.

I doubt very much that our future kitchens will be modernized with a Norge Dishmaker that grinds, washes and dries the family's plastic dinnerware and molds the pellets into new plates, cups and saucers. But who knows? Perhaps there will be robots in kitchens of the future, if not cooking and serving meals, at least loading and unloading the dishwasher!

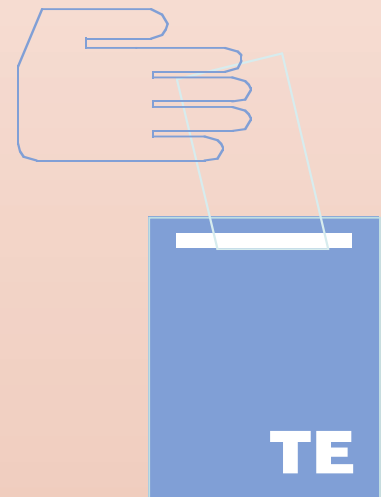
Election Results

By A. Michael Deller,
Director
The Library Network

No hanging chads or malfunctioning butterfly ballots marred the elections held at the most recent Cooperative Directors Association meeting. The meeting was held at the Library of Michigan.

Elected for two-year terms of office were incumbent Secretary-Treasurer Alida Geppert, Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative, re-elected; Roger Mendel, Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, elected vice-president; and A. Michael Deller, The Library Network, elected president.

Those present, including Suzanne Dees via teleconferencing, extended their appreciation to Jim Seidl for his unprecedented double term as the Association's president. His efforts on issues such as the recent HB 4474 consistently benefited libraries statewide in addition to those in his own cooperative service area. We are grateful for Jim's dedication.



The Kantzler Foundation of Bay City awarded \$200,000 to the Bay County Library System as part of a \$3 million campaign to enhance the 1-mill property tax project county voters approved earlier this year. The project includes building a new Central Library in Bay City, a new Pinconning Branch, and renovations to the System's three other branches.

Local residents Jim and Marilyn Hayes donated 1.2 acres to the Fife Lake Public Library for a new facility. Library official Julie Gray said the community had two years to raise funds for the new building. "We needed the public's support to make this happen," she said. "The space is badly needed, because our present library is only about 1,200 square feet, half the size of our class of library in the State of Michigan. We are excited about the possibilities and added services this will allow us to offer the community."

Romeo District Library staff and trustees were thrilled to learn that the Ford Motor Company Fund had awarded the library a \$50,000 grant. To honor the company's ongoing community involvement and the generous grant, the Romeo District Library will name its new community meeting room the "Ford Learning Resource and Community Meeting Room." The library community meeting room will be an integral resource in the pursuit of the library's mission to provide innovative programs for community residents of all ages in order to encourage their interest in reading, learning and library services and to promote literature.

The Algansee Branch Library, part of the Branch District Library System, is nuts about books—really! Thanks to Branch Clerk Lynnell Eash's clever idea, the library converted over two tons of black walnuts into books through a unique program: for every hundred pounds of black walnuts collected, the library received \$10 for books. "I got the idea when I was picking up nuts in my back yard," Eash explained. "When word about this fundraiser got out, I started finding boxes and bags of nuts waiting for me at the library whenever I came into work." Eash's husband, Jim, provided the necessary muscle to haul the nuts to Camden and shovel each load into the hulling machine located there (the machine is owned and operated by the Hammond company). "He was really sweet about it," Eash chuckled. Nut-picking volunteers ranged from 3-year-olds to 83-year-olds and included many school children.

"An Amish family in the area contributed 400 pounds," Eash added. Over 5,400 pounds of black walnuts were collected; the library received \$540 for new books.

The Detroit Public Library reopened a repaired and renovated Conely Branch on December 19, 2000. "The reopening of the Conely branch is the beginning of the restoration of the system to more adequate levels of library service to Detroiters," said Dr. Maurice Wheeler, DPL Director. The renovation was funded by bond proposals and a millage approved last February. The Oliver Dewey Marcks Foundation donated \$100,000 to the DPL to renovate the main library's Explorer's Room, which is used for children's programming, community meetings, and staff training.

If you have a news item you would like to contribute, please contact Carey Draeger at 517-373-5578 or email: cdraeger@libraryofmichigan.org.

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The Legislative Council was not appointed at
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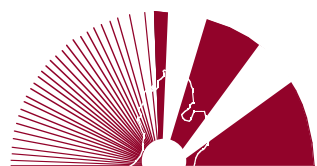
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